

REMARKS

The Examiner's time and cooperation in his interview with Applicant's attorney on November 1, 2005 is, of course, appreciated.

The present invention relates to an adhesive roller for removing detritus. The adhesive roller includes a tubular and cylindrical adhesive roll having a plurality of overlapping layers wherein each layer has a backing sheet and an adhesive coating on the outwardly facing side of the backing sheet.

A cover is removably and replaceably disposed around the roll and has one side in contact with the outermost layer of the adhesive roll. This cover has an adhesive release coating on the inner side to reduce adhesion between the cover and the outermost layer of the adhesive roll. Furthermore, the cover also includes two longitudinally extending edges positioned closely adjacent to each other when the cover is disposed around said roll.

A longitudinally extending adhesive retainer strip overlies the edges of the cover. This adhesive strip adhesively detaches both edges of the cover in order to secure the cover edges together and hold the cover to the adhesive roll. Furthermore, a pull-tab is adhesively attached to one side of the retainer strip which enables the cover to be easily removed when desired.

The operation of Applicant's invention is best understood by reference to Fig. 6 of the patent drawing. In Fig. 6, the cover 22 includes two edges 36 and 38 which are positioned closely adjacent to each other. It will, of course, be understood that as the adhesive roll 12 is depleted, the edge 36 of the cover 22 will actually overlap a portion of the edge 38 of the cover 22 as the outside diameter of the adhesive roll 12 diminishes.

The retainer strip 40 has an adhesive side 42 and a portion 46 of this adhesive side 42 is exposed. In order to secure the cover 22 to the adhesive roll 12, the adhesive strip 40 is not only

adhesively secured to the cover 22 along the edge 36, but also contacts the outer surface adjacent the opposite edge 38 of the cover 22 to secure the edges together. The pull-tab 44, in turn, enables the adhesive strip 40 to be detached from the cover 22 along its adhesive edge 38 when desired.

The Patent Examiner, however, has rejected previously submitted claim 1 as unpatentably obvious under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of US 2004/0194240 to McKay. As understood, it is the Examiner's position that the outermost layer of the adhesive roll forms the "cover" and that the retainer strip 110 of McKay (Figs. 10 and 11) overlaps the adjacent edges of the "cover". Applicant, however, respectfully traverses this basis for the Examiner's rejection of claim 1.

More specifically, the "cover" of Applicant's invention forms a separate component from the adhesive roll which is not only removably but also replaceably positioned around the adhesive roll. Furthermore, this aspect of Applicant's invention has been clarified by amendment to claim 1.

In sharp contrast to this, McKay does not show a "cover" at all. Rather, McKay merely discloses an outermost layer of the adhesive roll which is not a "cover" as used in this application. Instead, it is merely the outermost layer of the adhesive roll.

Secondly, and just as importantly, Applicant respectfully traverses the Patent Examiner's conclusion that the tab 110 of McKay reads on the adhesive retainer strip as it is defined in claim 1. In this regard, Applicant respectfully submits that the Patent Examiner has misread the McKay reference.

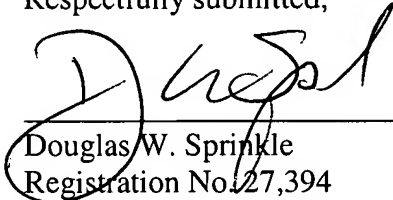
More specifically, as is clear from paragraph 41 of the McKay reference, the pop-up tab 110 of McKay is only adhesively secured along one portion 118 of the outermost layer of the

adhesive roll while its other portion 116 has a release film applied to it so that it does not adhere to the adhesive roll and forms a pop-up tab. This, of course, is exactly the opposite of what Applicant achieves in the instant invention. In the instant invention, the adhesive retainer strip 40 extends across and is adhesively secured to both edges of the cover and this aspect of Applicant's invention is clearly defined in claim 1 of the present invention. By the same token, the McKay reference clearly fails to disclose this feature of Applicant's invention and, in fact, teaches away from and not towards Applicant's invention.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 of the instant application patentably defines Applicant's invention over the prior art references of record and is allowable. All remaining rejected claims in this application depend upon claim 1 and are, therefore, also allowable.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for formal allowance and such action is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

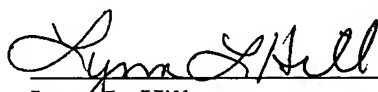


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